SURVIVAL

Danger 15

JUST HOW DID HE MEET MY FAMILY...
AND ALSO... WHERE DID THEY HEAD TO...?

IT'S HERE, HERE! THIS IS THE ROCK WHERE I FOUND YOU HOLDING SATORU'S DAD'S PICK!
OH...

PLEASE...!
PLEASE REMEMBER PROFESSOR...

...
YES, YOU HAD THAT PICK!
MM...!
SO I WAS HOLDING THIS HERE
R... REALLY?!
I THINK I CAN RECALL SOMETHING...
COME TO THINK OF IT...
HMMM...
P... PLEASE, TRY AND REMEMBER! H... HOW DID YOU GET AHOLD OF THE PICK?!
YOU HAD THIS, NOW THINK PLEASE!
PRO-FESSOR THIS IS IT
MMM...
...

PRO... PROFESSOR!
I CAN REMEMBER NOW. BACK THEN I'D INJURED MY FOOT FROM FALLING DOWN THE CLIFF!
YES, THAT'S IT!
WAIT, HOLD ON I'M THINKING! I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER!
PLEASE REMEMBER PROFESSOR!
THEN... THEN...
I... I'D HIT MY HEAD... AND IT WAS LIKE SUDDENLY WAKING FROM A DREAM...
...
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT?
WH... WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?!
FROM A TRAVELLER WHO HAPPENED TO BE PASSING BY!
I KNOW I CAN RECALL CLEARLY. BACK THEN I GOT THE PICK

HMM... THERE WAS A MARRIED COUPLE IN THEIR 40S
AND THEIR DAUGHTER SO THREE IN TOTAL.
TH... THAT'S MY FAMILY! THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT, THAT'S MY FAMILY...!
DAD, MUM, SIS...!

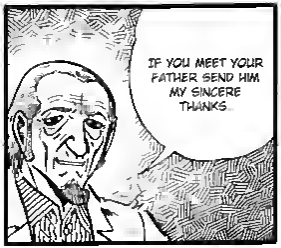
THEY WERE QUITE KIND.
AAH, THEY WERE ALL WELL.
W... WERE THEY... WERE MY FAMILY DOING ALRIGHT ?!
...
THEY RUSHED OVER UPON SEEING THAT I HAD INJURED MY LEG AND WAS UNABLE TO WALK...
DO YOU LIVE NEARBY...?
YOUR FOOT SEEMS TO BE INJURED...
WHAT-EVER'S THE MATTER?!
...

HOW ABOUT GIVING HIM YOUR PICK DEAR, IF HIS LEG'S BEEN INJURED?
LOOKING AROUND HE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY LUGGAGE
SO I IMAGINE HE'S FROM THE AREA...
YES ... HE CAN USE IT AS A CANE...
TAKE CARE...
SO THEN MISTER...
WE'VE BEEN SEPARATED FROM OUR COMPANIONS AND ARE TRYING TO CATCH UP TO THEM...
HERE TAKE THIS WE'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE IT AS WE'RE HEADING OFF...
...

AFTER THAT I CAN RECALL MY HEAD GETTING DIZZY...
AND THEN... NOTHING UNTIL YESTERDAY...
...
...
...
TH... THEY WERE DOING WELL! THEY... THEY... THEY WERE ALL DOING WELL...! DAD, MUM, AND SIS...!
UUUH

SO... SO THEY WERE HEADED WEST
IF... IF I HEAD WEST THEN...
I CAN MEET THEM AGAAAIN!

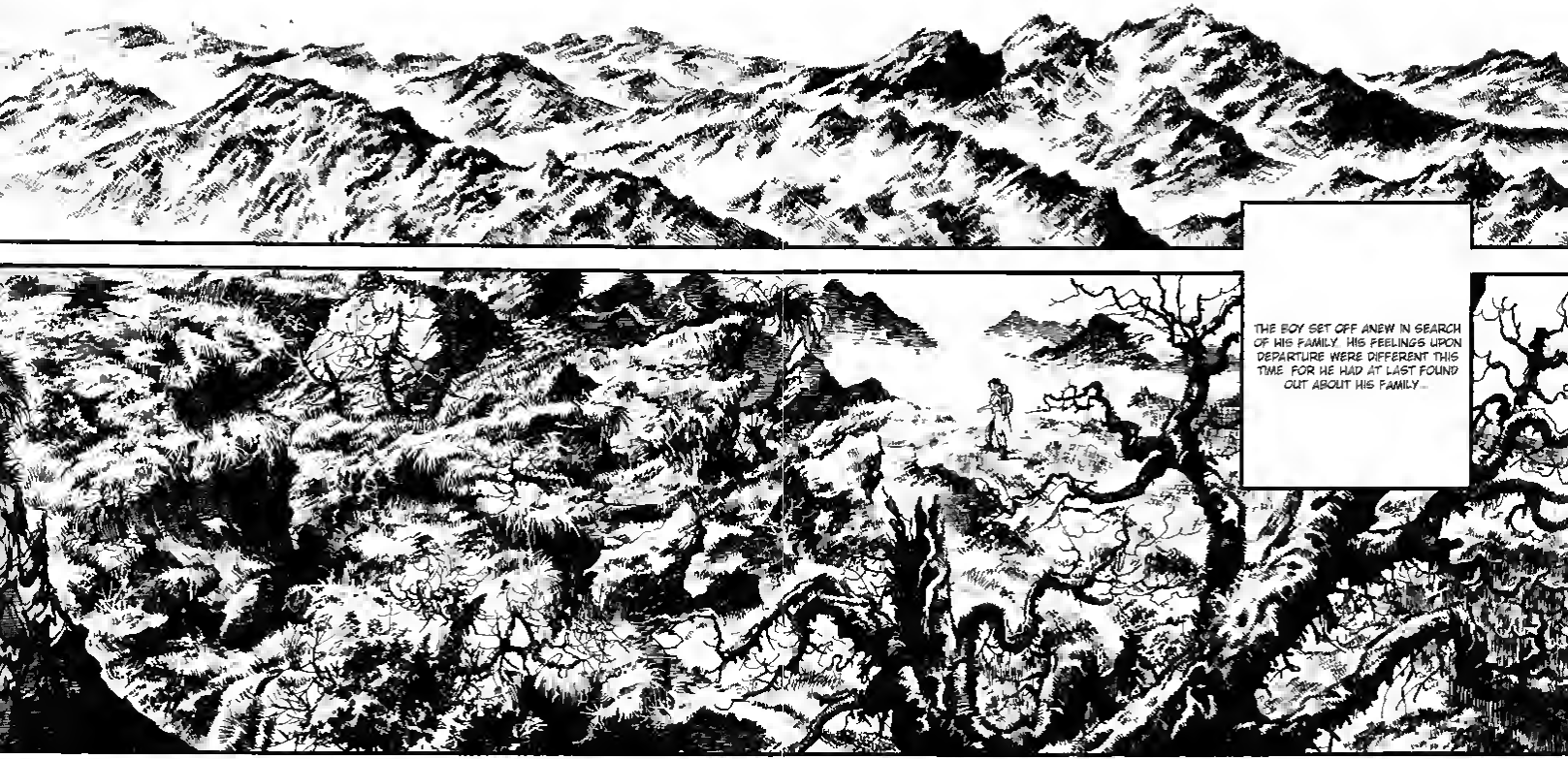
ESPECIALLY ALL THE FOOD YOU GAVE ME...
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING...
I KNOW YOU'RE KEEN TO MEET YOUR FAMILY ASAP... BUT YOU MUST TRY AND TAKE CARE.

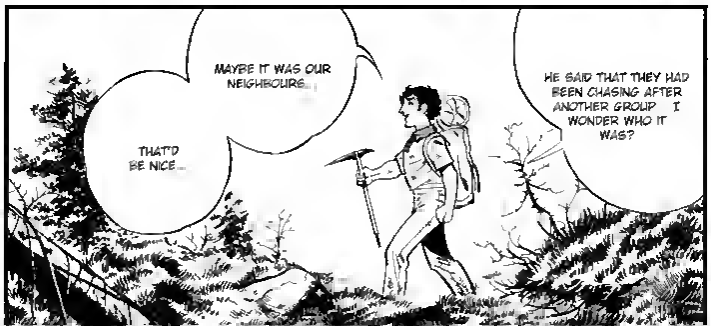

IF YOU MEET YOUR FATHER SEND HIM MY SINCERE THANKS..

WILL DO PROFESSOR KOMIYAMA TAKE CARE NOW!

GOODBYEEE!
YOU TAKE CARE AS WELLLL!

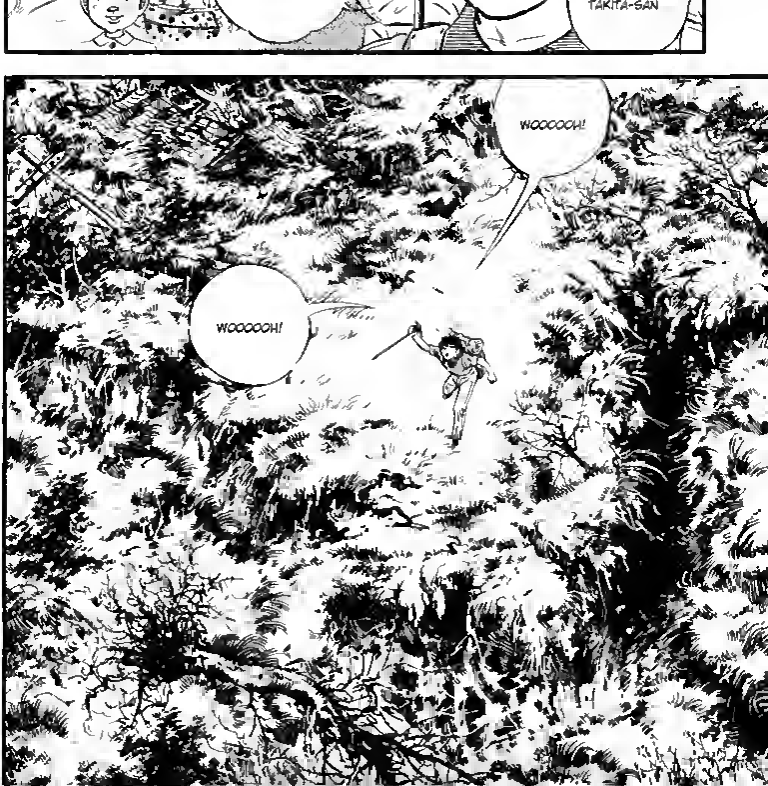
MMM... WE SHOULD PRAY FOR THE BEST
IT'D BE GREAT IF HE COULD MEET UP WITH HIS FAMILY SOON EH PROFESSOR...

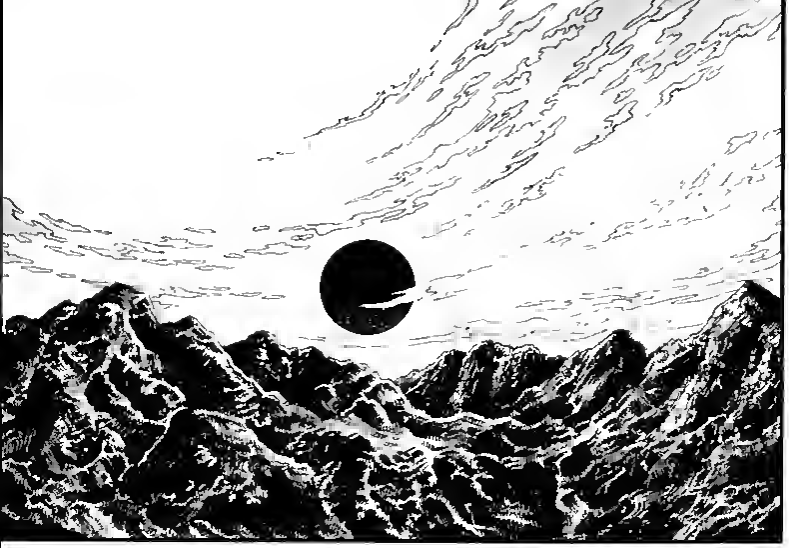

THE BOY SET OFF ANEW IN SEARCH OF HIS FAMILY. HIS FEELINGS UPON DEPARTURE WERE DIFFERENT THIS TIME. FOR HE HAD AT LAST FOUND OUT ABOUT HIS FAMILY...


MAYBE IT WAS OUR NEIGHBOURS...
THAT'D BE NICE...
HE SAID THAT THEY HAD BEEN CHASING AFTER ANOTHER GROUP... I WONDER WHO IT WAS?

DAD, MUM, SIS!
THANK GOD THEY'RE, THEY'RE ALL STILL ALIVE!

MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO MEET THEM ALL!
KIMURA-SAN, DOUMOTO-SAN
MITANI-SAN TAKITA-SAN


WOOOOOH!
WOOOOOH!



STILL, I'LL HAVE TO MAKE CAMP HERE FOR THE DAY...

...
HUH, THE SUN'S ALREADY SETTING IT MIGHT JUST BE BECAUSE I'M FEELING IMPATIENT, BUT THE DAY SEEMED TO FLY BY. I DON'T FEEL TIRED AT ALL

IT'S DONE... IT'S DONE...!
HUFF HUFF...!

I'LL NEED A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP!
NOW I HAVE TO MAKE SERIOUS PROGRESS TOMORROW TOO!
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HMM, NOT BAD....
チッ チッ

!
THE BOY COULD NOT SEE A THING YET HIS MANY PAST EXPERIENCES HAD HELPED TO HEIGHTEN HIS PERCEPTION
SOMETHING'S THERE! SOMETHING S THERE SILENTLY WATCHING ME!

HAVE THEY COME TO ATTACK ME ...?!
JUST WHAT'S OUT THERE?!

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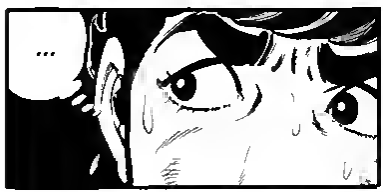
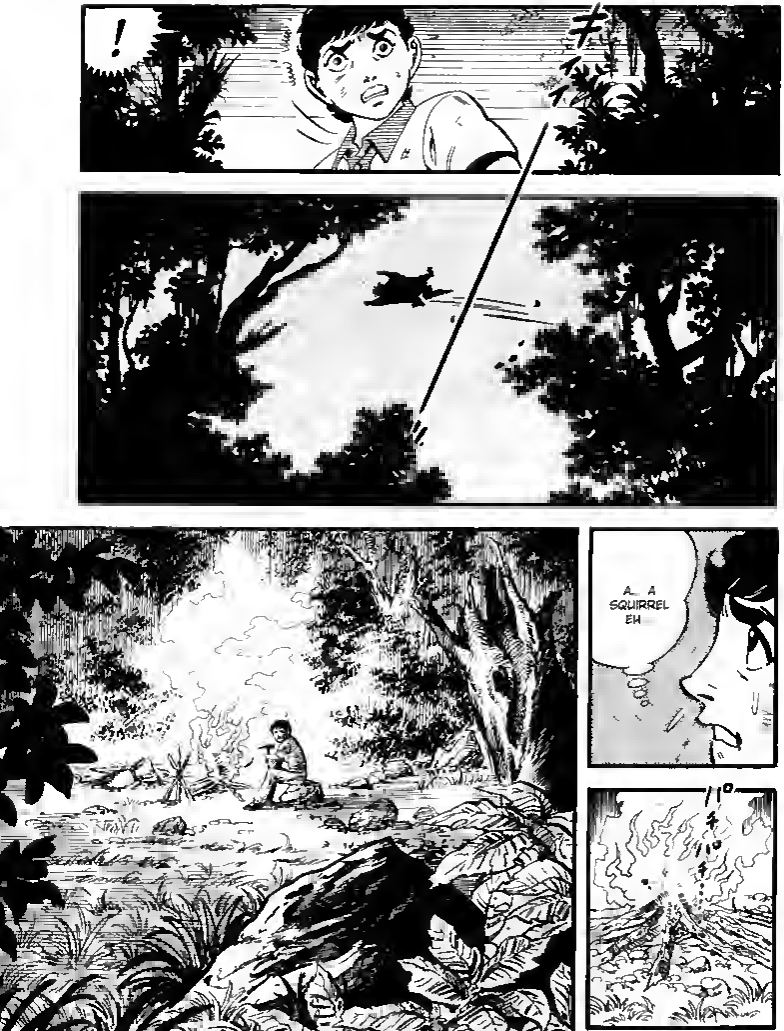
THEY'RE GONE OVER THERE TOO...

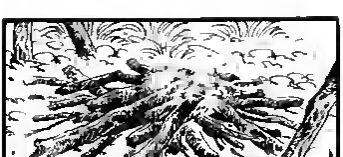
JUST WHAT ON EARTH WERE THEY?!
I'M CERTAIN THAT THOSE WERE THE EYES OF A GREAT NUMBER OF CREATURES

I'D BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY GOT ME WHILE I WAS ASLEEP. I'D BETTER KEEP A TIGHT WATCH


...

IT WAS A "PACK"...


!
A... A SQUIRREL EH



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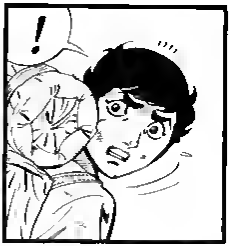
THEY NEVER LEFT ANY TRACKS IN AMONGST THE WEEDS...
IF THEY HAD, I'D HAVE AT LEAST BEEN ABLE TO TELL HOW LARGE THEY WERE...
REGARDLESS, I'D BEST GET AWAY FROM HERE QUICKLY



I KNEW IT SOMETHING'S AFTER ME...!
I'M BEING CHASED!

THE FOREST HAD ENDED. THE BOY'S PATH NOW STRETCHED OVER A GAPING WASTELAND. THERE WAS NOWHERE TO HIDE ONESELF...

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!
D... DAMN MUTT!
TRY AND SCARE ME WOULD YOU!
HM!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA FOLLOW ME, IF IT'S FOOD YOU WANT...
STOP FOLLOWING ME!

!
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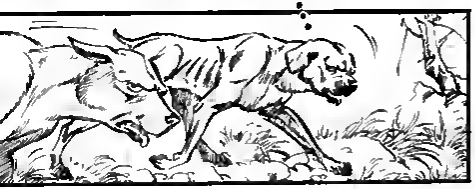
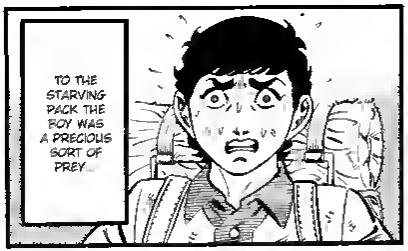
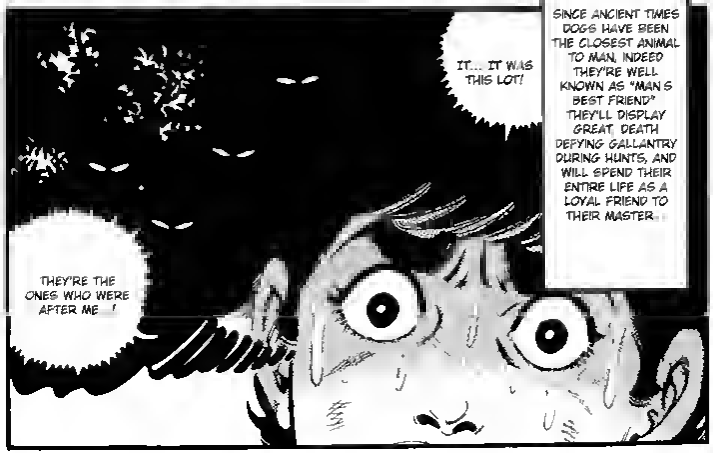
AAH...




TO THE STARVING PACK THE BOY WAS A PRECIOUS SORT OF PREY...

Y... YOU LOT...!

HOWEVER, WITHOUT A MASTER THEY BECOME TERRIFYING WILD BEASTS...


IT... IT WAS THIS LOT!
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO WERE AFTER ME...!
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES DOGS HAVE BEEN THE CLOSEST ANIMAL TO MAN, INDEED THEY'RE WELL KNOWN AS "MAN'S BEST FRIEND" THEY'LL DISPLAY GREAT DEATH DEFYING GALLANTRY DURING HUNTS, AND WILL SPEND THEIR ENTIRE LIFE AS A LOYAL FRIEND TO THEIR MASTER...

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WAOOH!
WAAAH!

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THE NUMBER OF DOGS IN A GROUP, AND THE SIZE OF THE PREY DETERMINED HOW MUCH MEAT EACH MEMBER WOULD RECIEVE
THE WILD DOGS HAD FLOCKED TOGETHER AND WERE COOPERATING IN ORDER TO TAKE DOWN THEIR PREY BY WORKING AS A GROUP IT MEANT THEY COULD EASILY TAKE DOWN LARGE ANIMALS WHICH WERE NORMALLY IMPOSSIBLE

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キャイーン
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ワオーン
JU... JUST TRY AND BRING IT!

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ウウウ
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ツンエッ
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ギャン
ギャン
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ウウウ

SHIIIT!
TAKEE THIIIS!
AND THIIIS!
AND THIIIS!

HAAH, HAAH, HAAH...
HAAH, HAAH
HAAH, HAAH...
D—DAMN IT! J—JUST WHAT DO I DO IF THEY KEEP TRYING TO WEAR ME DOWN?! HAAH, HAAH

ウォォーーーン……
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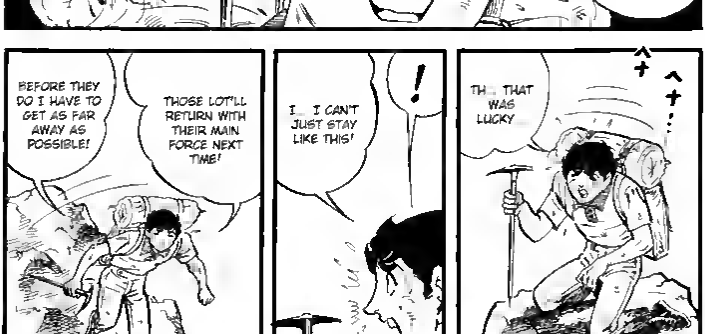
ピクッ！

I... I CAN'T GO ON...!
AH, ARE THERE STILL MORE OF THEM?!

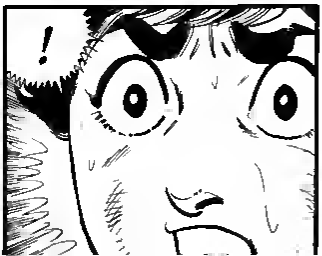
?
?!

?
WH... WHAT HAPPENED...?!

AND THE GROUP'S BOSS HAS CALLED THEM BACK!
AH, I SEE! SO THEY WERE A SMALLER SUB PACK!


BEFORE THEY DO I HAVE TO GET AS FAR AWAY AS POSSIBLE!
THOSE LOT'LL RETURN WITH THEIR MAIN FORCE NEXT TIME!
I... I CAN'T JUST STAY LIKE THIS!
!
TH... THAT WAS LUCKY...
へナ
へナ...

HAAH, HAAH
HAAH


!

AH, IT WAS THAT LOT!
THE BOY HAD WANDERED INTO THE PACK'S HOME RANGE. HE COULD ENCOUNTER THEM AGAIN AT ANY TIME...

PHEEEW....

HAAH HAAH
HAAH, HAAH